

College Station

December/January Events

12/2	"Holidays in the Rotunda" George Bush Library, 691-4012 (Events ongoing)
12/3	Christmas in the Park Lighting Ceremony 6-9 p.m., Central Park (Lights stay on through New Year's Eve)
12/5	Jingle Bell Fun Run, 8 a.m. 764-3486, Central Park
12/5	Toys on Parade Holiday Parade, 776-4444
12/8	Hanukkah begins
12/9	City Council Meeting; Workshop 2 p.m.; Regular Meeting 7 p.m.
12/10	Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration, 4 p.m. Lincoln Center, 764-3779
12/11	Brunch with Santa - Children's Museum, 779-5437
12/15	KBTX Food For Families - Brazos Center
12/ 17-18	Texas A&M University Graduation Ceremonies
12/ 20-31	College Station ISD Holiday Break
12/23	City Council Meeting; Workshop 3 p.m.; Regular Meeting 7 p.m.
12/ 24-25	Christmas Holiday (City offices closed)
1/1	New Year's Day (City offices closed 1/3)
1/ 3-5	College Station ISD Staff Development Days (Student Holiday)
1/8	Christmas Tree Recycling - Central Park, 1 -5 p.m.
1/17	Martin Luther King's Birthday (City offices closed)

What's In the News

The College Station Banner Ordinance

In order to improve and preserve the overall appearance of College Station, the City Council recently approved changes to the ordinance regulating the use of banners.

A commercial banner is defined as a temporary sign made of cloth, canvas, or other flexible material which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, entertainment, or attraction sold, offered, or existing.

Please be aware that all existing banners must be removed by January 1, 2005.

Because banners are no longer permitted in College Station, the Ordinance was amended to provide an opportunity for additional permanent signage.

All commercial buildings or tenant lease spaces are now permitted to have 2.5 square feet of attached signage per linear foot of all public entry facades.

There are two **exemptions** to this new Banner Ordinance.

1. Banners are permitted for a **Grand Opening** for 14 days within 60 days of the granting of the initial Certificate of Occupancy (when a new building is constructed), a change in the use of the building or lease space, or a change in the name of the business. A permit is required for this type of banner.

2. Banners are also permitted during **Special Events** for 14 days. This type of banner is approved with the Special Events License. A Special Event is one which is held outside of a building and where over 250 people will gather. Chapter 4.4.B.5 of the Code of Ordinances further defines Special Events.

These new changes are reflected in the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Section 7.4 Signs. You can view the UDO on our website at www.cstx.gov under the "Planning & Development Services" link.

For answers to any of your signage questions, call Planning & Development Services at 764-3570. For questions relating to enforcement of this Ordinance, call Code Enforcement at 764-6363.

Holiday Sanitation Schedule

Christmas & New Year's Day :

Commercial Garbage Collection
Recycling Collection (TCW)

Off Saturday, Saturday Route collected Monday
Off Friday before Christmas, No makeup
Off Monday after New Year's Day, No makeup





Ask the City

Do you have a question about the City of College Station?
Each month we'll check with our experts for the answers.

Q. Each year, my family recycles our Christmas tree and receives a free seedling in exchange. Will the City offer that service again this year?

A. Yes. The Christmas Tree recycling program began in 1989 as an effort to divert the thousands of trees otherwise headed for the landfill. The program, a joint effort between the Cities of College Station and Bryan, has been very successful. Not only is landfill space preserved, the mulch made from the trees is used throughout the city. Residents can now place their tree curbside on bulky item day; however, if you bring your tree to Central Park on January 8, from 1 - 5 p.m., you'll receive a free willow oak seedling.

Q. My club would like a speaker from the Police Department to come and talk to us at our monthly luncheon. Is this a service that the City provides?

A. The City has employees who are experts in many different fields. Fire and Police can address safety issues, while other departments can address any topic from codes and ordinances to economic development and recycling. We even offer tours of the landfill or wastewater treatment plant, if you are looking for something a little different. Call 764-3445 for more information.

**Send questions to: City of College Station Public Communications,
1101 Texas Avenue, College Station, TX 77842; or email pjett@cstx.gov.
Questions can also be faxed to 764-6258 or call 764-3445.**

City Council Holiday Schedule

Due to the holidays, the second City Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 21. Workshop session will begin at 3 p.m. and the Regular Meeting starts at 7 p.m.

City News Direct To You

Want to know what special events, new programs and projects are underway at the city? Check out our news show and be informed, get involved and stay tuned to Channel 19.

Tune in CSTV - Channel 19
daily at 12:30, 2:30, 6:30 and
10:30 (a.m./p.m.)

Christmas In The Park - 20 Years of Holiday Joy!

The City of College Station is proud to present the *20th Annual Christmas in the Park* Celebration. This family friendly event has become a cherished tradition for many in the Brazos Valley.

Each year Central Park delights thousands of visitors with more than half a million lights, creating beautiful holiday scenes from swimming swans to a gingerbread village and our famous Santa's Lane. Every lighted scene in the park is lovingly handmade by our own lighting crew of city employees.

The lights shine bright each night throughout December. Weekends offer evenings full of free entertainment and refreshments, as entertainers from area

schools, organizations and clubs come to perform for our holiday guests. The weekend before Christmas offers the Baking Contest and the always exciting Howliday Pet Contest. And like everything else in the park, these events are FREE!

Here at Christmas in the Park, we like to keep our guests warm with free hot cocoa and Christmas cookies served by Santa's helpers. Warm up in the Park lobby while you chat with Santa. Bring your own camera for pictures or get one taken for a small fee. View the beautiful lights and sing along with carolers while riding on the free hayride. Watch as children of all ages smile as they meet the various life-sized puppets

that roam the park. Join us for Christmas in the Park 2004.

If it isn't already, it might become your family's newest tradition.



Open House Dates

**December 3*, 4, 10, 11,
17, and 18**

6 - 9 p.m.

*** Lighting Ceremony**